

Championships and three State Championships in football. His team also won the Delta Valley Conference Football Championship. At the time of his retirement, Rosedale High School held the state record for the most consecutive wins.

Mr. Young also led the track team to a State Track Championship in 1983. He won the "DVC Track Coach of the Year" award in 1983 and the "State Track Coach of the Year" award the same year.

Mr. Young was inducted into the Delta State University Alumni Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Mississippi High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001. The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity awarded him in 2001 with a plaque for distinguished service rendered in the field of sports. He was the 2002 Bolivar Commercial Coach of the Year and was in The Bolivar Commercial Quarter Century Club in 2000. He was also Co-Coach of Year for the Delta Democrat Times in 2002.

He was an avid golfer and outdoorsman. He was a member of the Delta State University Athletic Alumni Association, Mississippi Association of Coaches, Donaldson Point Hunting Club, Rosedale Country Club and Rosedale Methodist Church. Mr. Leland Young will be dearly missed by his community.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act. This bill is aimed at helping states improve their child protection services through grants and assistance that allow them to expand and enhance their child welfare workforce.

Many State child protection agencies are the last line of defense in caring for abused and neglected children. Today, these agencies are suffering from staffing problems that have been compounded by budget cuts and inadequate funding. The result in many cases is a failure to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children in our society.

I am sure that many of my colleagues have seen in their local newspapers or heard of a case where a child was severely abused or killed because a child protection agency ignored dangers posed to a child by their foster family or adoptive parents. Just look at the case of Indiana. A total of 70 kids died there from abuse and neglect in July 2001 to July 2002—this was a new State record. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Children Family and Service Review found that the cause of this was in part due to the state child protection agencies failure to sufficiently reduce incidences of repeated mistreatment. It also warned that state budget cuts will further impact Indiana's limited ability to track such incidences.

In Colorado, State budget cuts have reduced the size of foster care review teams to the point that the State won't be able to meet federal requirements that foster children be checked on at least twice a year. In Arizona, budget cuts there have led to 32 percent of

children in State custody being stuck in temporary placements for over 2 years. In South Carolina, some 500 positions in the State's social service agency—many involving child welfare—have been zeroed out. The same is true for many other States. There is no question that States need federal help to improve their ability to help and care for children in need.

These nationwide problems are why I am introducing the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act. It provides States with \$500 million in matching grants over 5 years to improve these services where it is needed most: Increasing the number of qualified child welfare workers. States can use these matching grants for their private and public child welfare agencies to: Reduce the turnover and vacancy rate of child welfare agencies, increase education and training of child welfare workers, attract and retain qualified candidates and coordinate services with other agencies, improve child welfare workers' wages, and increase the number of child welfare workers.

To retain qualified child welfare workers, my bill also allows student loan forgiveness for those who have been with an agency for at least two years. In order to improve the availability of quality services, this legislation provides a 75 percent federal match to pay for training of private child welfare workers, which is the same match rate provided to public child welfare agencies. My bill also allocates funding for child welfare agencies to provide short-term mental health training to caseworkers.

A recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report found that child welfare workers are leaving the child welfare profession because of low wages, risk of on the job violence, staff shortages, high caseloads, administrative burdens, lack of support from supervisors, and lack of proper training for child welfare workers and their supervisors.

The high turnover rate and high caseloads of child welfare workers limits the ability and efficiency of agencies to investigate and solve problems of child abuse and neglect. For instance, the study found that the above staff problems: Provides insufficient time for remaining staff to establish critical trusting relationships with the families and children which are important to make the necessary decisions to ensure safe and stable permanent placements; delays the timeliness of child abuse and neglect investigation; limits the frequency of worker visits with children who are the victims or alleged victims of child abuse or neglect; and hampers agencies' attainment of some key federal goals of ensuring the safety of children and placing them in permanent homes either through adoption, kinship care or reuniting them with their families.

The Child Welfare League of America, the Alliance for Children and Families, the National Association of Social Workers, the Lutheran Services in America and the Catholic Charities of America have endorsed this bill. These organizations understand the needed support this legislation will provide State efforts to help abused and neglected children.

Please join with us in supporting the Child Protection Services Workforce Improvement Act and provide much needed financial resources to our child welfare workforce to protect the most vulnerable children in our society. Congress has a responsibility to respond to this urgent need.

RECOGNIZING SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SEQUENCING OF HUMAN GENOME AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEALS OF HUMAN GENOME MONTH AND DNA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. Speaker, let me join in with the gentleman from Florida and the gentleman from Ohio for their wisdom in bringing this legislation to the floor, and certainly to the gentlewoman from New York, who I enthusiastically join, along with the gentleman from Louisiana and the gentleman from Michigan on this important legislative initiative.

H. Con. Res. 110 is a resolution that helps to educate our colleagues but also it speaks truth to the American people, and gives due recognition to a great accomplishment for humankind. As a member of the House Committee on Science, we spent many, many hours on the question of the human genome and the Human Genome Project in particular. Sequencing of the human genome as one of the most significant scientific accomplishments of the past 100 years and expressing support of the goals and ideals of the Human Genome Month and DNA Day really is a statement about life.

It is a statement about the ability of the new science to be able, Mr. Speaker, to understand life, to help us understand where we came from, and how we fit into the world. It will also create improved health where that was not a possibility 10, 15, or 50 years ago.

It is crucial as the human genome project achieves its goal, and the essential completion of the reference sequence of the human genome carrying, that we begin to put our new knowledge to work. This has been a great investment, and the payoffs should benefit all of the American people. However, we must move thoughtfully and cautiously. One of the challenges that we have in this Congress is the whole question of human cloning. It is important not to equate these projects—research on the human genome DNA with the idea of the creation of a human being. We can have one without the other. We should not be so afraid of creating monsters, that we do not attempt to create cures.

It is important now as we have begun or understand the sequence that we allow this project to grow and to be utilized to help us determine the cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, stroke, and yes, HIV/AIDS. The more we understand about the human being and its makeup, the more we can create a better way of life.

We well know of our renowned fictional character Superman. Christopher Reeves, who was the embodiment of the man of steel, has become a different kind of superman today. He may be in a wheelchair, but he is still making great bounds, trying time after time with a number of efforts to find the cure for those who suffer spinal injuries, some of the most devastating injuries that we will face. As we look to the wounded who will be coming home from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, they will be coming home with major injuries, some continuing to be life-threatening.